



Briana Mahan

Kansas City, Missouri



How to Improve Your Art

Briana Mahan has been a Girl Scout for 13 years as a member of Troop 779 in Service Unit 640. She is currently a sophomore at the Kansas City Art Institute.

Briana's Gold Award project addressed a lack of basic education on art skills and the importance of incorporating art into the lives of everyday community members. As an artist, Briana wanted to inspire others and provide much needed basic art skills when she noticed a lack of support for arts education. She created a "how to" book with beginner art skill sets so anyone could explore drawing as an artistic form of expression, without having to go through a formal education process. She presented the book and project to middle schoolers. By making art education more accessible to the community, Briana hopes to inspire more people to express themselves through art and create awareness for the importance of arts education.

Briana worked with community members from organizations like the University Academy and Faxon Elementary, as well as local photographers to consult on her project and help her implement it. By distributing her "how to" book, Briana is taking basic art education to her community and hoping it inspires more people to draw and invest in art education in schools. The middle schoolers she presented the book to will be able to begin exploring art on their own, thanks to the skills she's made available. The project has lasting impact through the continued sharing of the books she created and skillsets she shared with students.

Because of Girl Scouts, I was able to give back to my community and help bring the importance of having knowledge based in artistic crafts. By providing a book at help give younger students a starting point in art, it will help inspire more students to pursue it as a career in the future.